Chapter 13
……
ピンポーン
AS ALWAYS, THANKS FOR HELPING WITH MY STUDIES.
クークー トゥロッポォー
クークー トゥロッポォー
FIRST, GO TAKE A SHOWER.
クークー トゥロッポォー
クークー トゥロッポォー

兄友

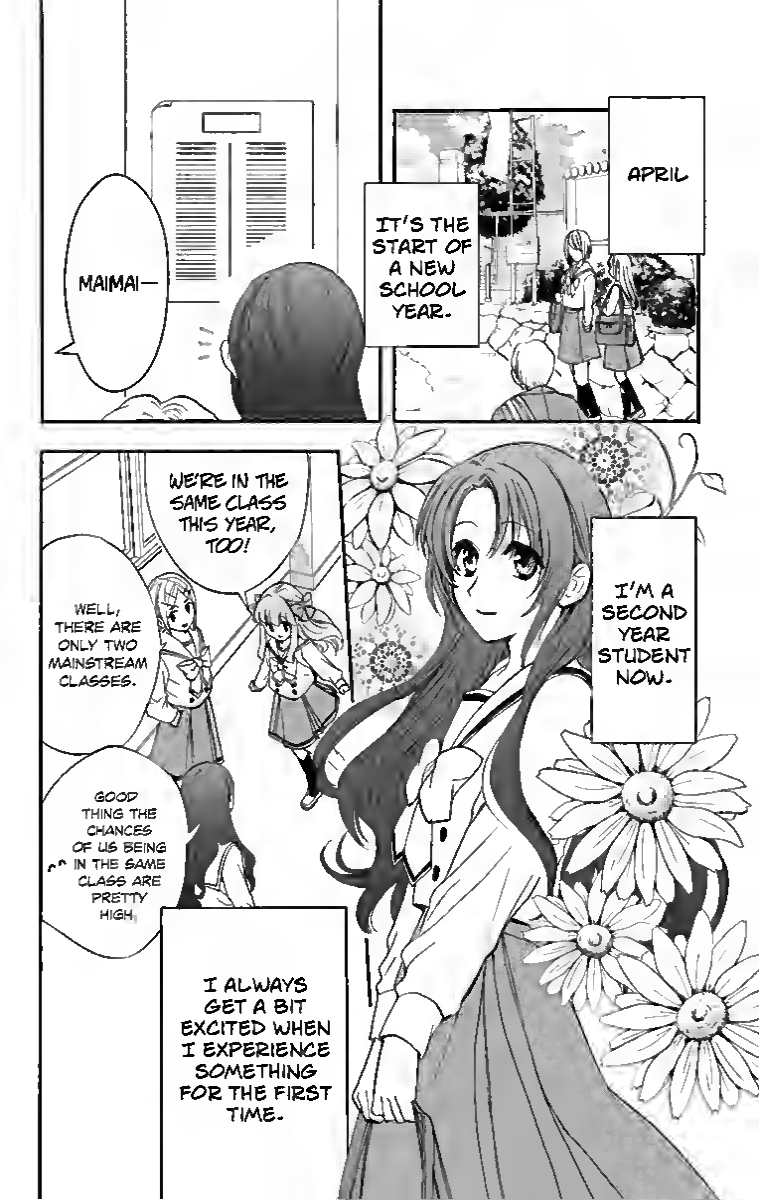
おにとも

I've written about the relationship between Aki and Yukihiro as one between a dog and their owner, but strictly speaking, their relationship is more accurately portayed in this scenario "A dog that you can't keep, but is your relatives dog that you take care of and tame."

UH.
Ugh
I'M HERE AGAIN.
AH... YEAH.
MAKE YOURSELF COMFORTABLE... BYE.
WHAT IS IT? YOU CAME INTO THE LIVING ROOM TO GET SOMETHING, RIGHT?
I DON'T WANT YOU TO BE IN MY VIEW WHILE I'M LAZING IN THE LIVING ROOM! TAKE A HINT, KUROBUCHI!
T/N: KUROBUCHI = BLACK RIMS REFERRING TO HIS GLASSES
OH, THERE WAS A PHONE THAT WAS LEFT ON THE SOFA. IS IT YOURS, AKI-SAN?
WAAAAH! DON'T TOUCH THE POWER BUTTON!
HM? DID YOU DRAW THAT?
Sorry, my bad
HELL NO!
BUT YOU DREW THINGS LIKE "YOUR PREVIOUS SELF" WHEN YOU WERE LITTLE.
Fufufu...
?
At a family gathering
HOWAAAA!

...WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
NO IDEA...
I'VE BROUGHT THE TEXT-BOOK—
TAKING FIRST PLACE IN THE ACADEMIC TEST IS PRETTY AMAZING
YOU'RE STARTING THERE SOON, SO WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER FOR YOU TO GO TO A PROPER CRAM SCHOOL?
NO, I DON'T THINK I NEED TO
MY MOM'S TAKE IS, "IF YOU WANT TO DO IT, JUST DO IT."
...HM?
YOU'RE CARRYING QUITE A LOT TODAY. DID YOU BRING ADDITIONAL REFERENCE BOOKS?
AUNTIE STILL LETS THINGS RUN ITS OWN COURSE, I SEE...
I'll do my best to teach you

NO,
THIS IS...
.....
A LUNCH BOX...
?


APRIL
IT'S THE START OF A NEW SCHOOL YEAR.
MAIMAI—
I'M A SECOND YEAR STUDENT NOW.
WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS THIS YEAR, TOO!
WELL, THERE ARE ONLY TWO MAINSTREAM CLASSES.
GOOD THING THE CHANCES OF US BEING IN THE SAME CLASS ARE PRETTY HIGH.
I ALWAYS GET A BIT EXCITED WHEN I EXPERIENCE SOMETHING FOR THE FIRST TIME.

WE DIDN'T MEET MUCH DURING THE SPRING BREAK, BUT MAIMAI, ARE YOU STILL GOING OUT WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND?
ARE WE STILL?!
Y-YEAH, WE ARE, WE ARE.
YOU MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU'RE EXPECTING THEM TO BREAK UP...
IF THEY'RE STILL TOGETHER WHEN THEY DIE, THEN THEIR LOVE IS FOR-EVER.
MAI-CHAN!
THAT'S SO DEEP.
SOMEONE WAS LOOKING FOR YOU EARLIER.
HUH?
WHO COULD IT BE? WHAT DID HE LOOK LIKE?
I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AROUND BEFORE, SO I'M GUESSING HE'S A FRESHMAN.
BUT...
I TOLD HIM YOU HADN'T ARRIVED YET, SO HE JUST LEFT. BUT, YOU KNOW—
HE WAS SUCH A CUTIE!
HEY, WHO WAS HE? YOUR BOY-FRIEND?!
HUH?! NO, I DON'T THINK I KNOW H—

Woo
SERIOUSLY, NANASE?! YOUR BOYFRIEND IS A FRESHMAN?!
WHA?!
HEY, EVERYONE! NANASE GOT A BOYFRIEND!
AND THE GUY'S A FRESHMAN!

WOAH! SHE'S ALREADY SNAGGED A FIRST-YEAR!
WHO'S NANASE?
WOW, CONGRATS, MAI-CHAN!
A YOUNGER GUY... THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
WHAT. NO WAY...
RIGHT, HE'S IN OUR CLASS THIS YEAR, TOO.
AH...
AH, THERE'S A GUY WHO LOOKS SHOCKED

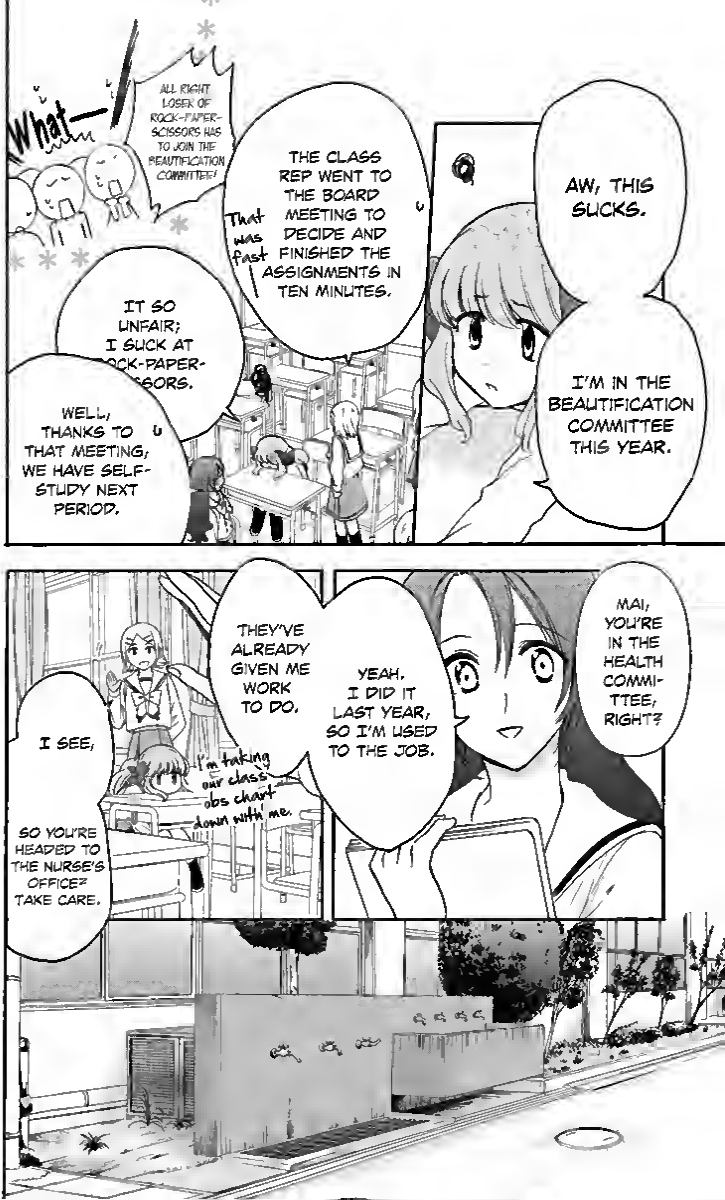
HOW DO THINGS ESCALATE SO FAST?!
WHY IS IT HAPPENING AGAIN.
KAGA.
GUUUUUUUU
GROOWL
THIS MORNING, ON THE WAY TO SCHOOL...
HA!
STOP EATING OUTSIDE!
I'LL NEED TO NOTE THIS. LET'S SEE, FOR KAGA... HEALTH OBS:
"STARVATION."
HE'S HOT THOUGH.
HE'S HOT THOUGH.
SUCH A WASTE...

AFTER THE TEST—

I TRIED LOOKING FOR HER TO RETURN THE LUNCH BOX, BUT SHE HAD ALREADY LEFT.

I THOUGHT SHE MIGHT HAVE CLUB ACTVITIES DURING THE SPRING BREAK, SO I CAME IN A FEW TIMES. I COULDN'T FIND HER, THOUGH.

AM I IN SUCH A RUSH TO FIND HER?
WHY
I STILL COULDN'T FIND HER EARLIER
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DIDN'T HAVE TO BE THAT DESPERATE TO LOOK FOR HER. I COULD'VE JUST RETURNED IT WHEN SCHOOL STARTED.
S-
SEN-SEI...
DON'T YOU THINK...
KAGA-KUN MIGHT ACTUALLY BE A GOD?
COME ALONG, KAGA.
YOU GUYS HAVE A SCHOOL ASSEMBLY IN THE GYMNASIUM.


AW, THIS SUCKS.
I'M IN THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE THIS YEAR.
THE CLASS REP WENT TO THE BOARD MEETING TO DECIDE AND FINISHED THE ASSIGNMENTS IN TEN MINUTES.
That was fast!
IT SO UNFAIR; I SUCK AT ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS.
WELL, THANKS TO THAT MEETING, WE HAVE SELF-STUDY NEXT PERIOD.
What—!
ALL RIGHT LOSER OF ROCK-PAPER-SCISSORS HAS TO JOIN THE BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE!
MAI, YOU'RE IN THE HEALTH COMMITTEE, RIGHT?
YEAH, I DID IT LAST YEAR, SO I'M USED TO THE JOB.
THEY'VE ALREADY GIVEN ME WORK TO DO.
I'm taking our class' obs chart down with me.
I SEE,
SO YOU'RE HEADED TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE? TAKE CARE.

ガラッ
EXCUSE ME.
MISS, I'VE COME TO SUBMIT OUR CLASS' OBS CHART...
しーん...
HUH?
IS SHE OUT?
THE DOOR WASN'T LOCKED THOUGH...
ガラ...
Nya
Nya
Nya
Nya
HM?

Nya
Nya
THAT'S NOT JUST THE SOUND OF A CAT GATHERING!
WHA— ARE YOU OKAY?!
UGH...
HM?
YOU'RE...

IT'S THE PERSON FROM THAT TIME...
AH...
AH...
DON'T TELL ME... AGAIN?
...YES.

LET'S SEE...
AH, FOUND IT.
HERE YOU GO.
HUH...?
WHY DO I FEEL MORE EMBARRASSED THAN USUAL...?
BY THE LOOKS OF IT, YOU WON'T LAST UNTIL LUNCH. YOU CAN EAT IT HERE.
THERE'S STILL QUITE SOME TIME BEFORE BREAK.
OH, JUST SO YOU KNOW, I DON'T KEEP THESE SNACKS ON ME ALL THE TIME!
Today was just by chance!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

WHAT'S THIS
STRANGE FEELING?
Oh my
ERRM...
I THINK THE SEWING KIT WAS IN THIS CUP-BOARD...
HUH?
IF YOU DON'T MIND A QUICK FIX, I'LL SEW IT UP FOR YOU.

...THAT'S AMAZING.
NOT ONLY ARE YOU GOOD AT COOKING, BUT SEWING AS WELL
HUH? THIS IS NOTHING!
MOMS ARE MUCH MORE ADMIRABLE; THEY CAN DO THESE THINGS QUITE EASILY.
REALLY?
OUR MAID TAKES CARE OF MOST OF THE HOUSEWORK.
HIS FAMILY HAS A MAID?!
IT'S A BIT LATE TO ASK,
ARE YOU ALLOWED TO USE THE KIT WITHOUT PERMISSION?
IT'S FINE. I USE IT QUITE OFTEN, AND THIS SEWING KIT BELONGS TO THE NURSE.
I KIND OF PITY HOW HIS UNIFORM HAS BEEN RUINED SO EARLY IN THE SCHOOL YEAR...
I'M REALLY THANKFUL FOR EVERYTHING,
NANASE-SENPAI.

DID I TELL YOU MY NAME?
HMM?!
AH, NO.
I ASKED THE TEACHER FOR YOUR NAME. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FIND YOU EVER SINCE,
TO RETURN YOUR LUNCH BOX—
AH.
I THOUGHT I MIGHT RUN INTO YOU DURING CLUB ACTIVITIES, SO I CAME IN A FEW TIMES...
SORRY! I'M IN THE GOING-HOME CLUB!
EVER SINCE... EVER SINCE?! HAVE YOU BEEN COMING IN DURING THE SPRING BREAK?!
I REALIZED LATER BUT...
AHHH! THAT'S RIGHT! I REMEMBER NOW!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D COME IN DURING THE BREAK JUST TO RETURN MY LUNCH BOX...
I'M SORRY, IT'S BECAUSE I FORGOT ABOUT IT...
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!
I JUST WANTED TO—
SEE
YOU...
Quietly
...?
UM...
KAGA-KUN?

YOU U OKAY?
SOON AFTER THAT, THE BELL RANG
AND THE LUNCH BOX REMAINED UNRETURNED.
SO, THAT HAPP-ENED.

SOMEHOW, I'M IN THE SAME CLASS AS YUKIHIRO AGAIN...
I SEE, [S]HE SOUNDS PRETTY UNIQUE.
I think you're there to keep an eye on him...
Also, [S]HE'S A BEAUTY!
[S]HE WASN'T PICKY ABOUT FOOD THAT WAS IN THE BENTO, AND ATE EVERYTHING!
[S]HE'S A STRANGE, BUT HONEST KID.
Update Report

I'll talk to you later!
Don't be! You're a third-year who's also teaching. I understand how you're so busy
I've moved up a grade as well, so I have to work hard, too!
BUT, I'M GLAD YOU SOUND WELL. I'M SORRY I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO MAKE MUCH TIME FOR YOU.

ON HER SPRING BREAK
HOME-WORK THAT IS NOW OVERDUE.
AHHHH HHHHH HHH!
BUT, EVEN IF SHE WAS WORKING IN A QUIET SPACE, SHE STILL WOULDN'T HAVE MADE MUCH PROGRESS
IF YOU'RE GONNA FLIRT, DO IT SOME-WHERE ELSE.
YOU FORGET THAT THIS IS MY HOUSE.

AH, RIGHT.
SOUTA, HERE.
?
WHAT'S THAT?
LAST YEAR'S CLASS PHOTOS.

YUKI-HIRO...
I TOLD THEM SO MANY TIMES, NOT TO LEAVE ANY RECORD OF IT!
UGH... I'LL HAVE TO FIND AND DISPOSE OF THE DATA SOME-HOW.
MIGHT NOT BE POSSI BLE
...HMM?

YUKI-
HERO!
BUT, WAIT! ISN'T THIS A SNEAK SHOT?!
IF SHE FINDS OUT THAT A PHOTO OF HER WAS TAKEN WITHOUT PERMISSION, WON'T SHE DISLIKE IT?!
AH... BUT I WANT TO KEEP IT! HER PONYTAIL... URGH...
チュン
チュン
チュン
Ding-dong~

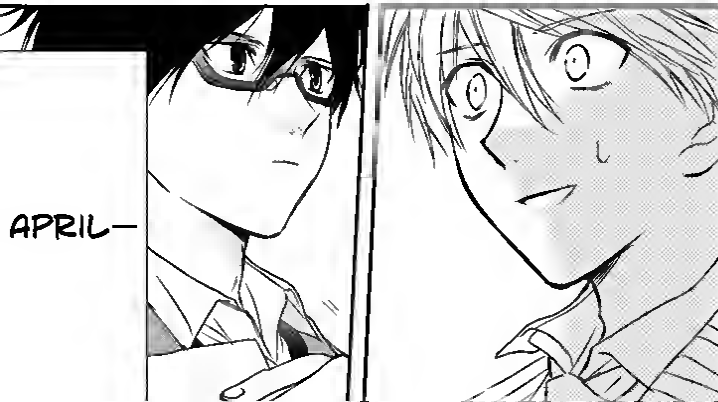
WE HAVE A GUEST TODAY, SO WE'LL STUDY IN MY ROOM.
OKAY, PARDON THE INTRUSION.
YOU LOOK A LITTLE FLUSHED, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
...YEAH, I'M FINE.
TODAY, I FOUND SOMEONE I LIKE.
HUH?
YOU'RE LOOKING A BIT FLUSHED YOURSELF. YOU OKAY?
AH, YES.

UM... FOR NOW, LET'S GO UPSTAIRS.
I'll make us some coffee.
OKAY.
IS HE MAKING A BAD... JOKE?
HMM... I CAN'T TELL IF HE'S BEING SERIOUS OR NOT...
IN THE FIRST PLACE, IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE HIM FALLING IN LOVE WITH SOMEONE...
SHOULD I HAVE LAUGHED?
NANASE-SAN?
PI-RON!
Good luck with tutoring!

I'LL DO MY BEST...
ITSUKI, HERE'S YOUR CUP—
WHA—
AAA AAAA AAH!
DID I LEAVE THOSE PHOTOS SITTING OUT?!
Cross-dressing photos

IS THE PERSON IN THIS PHOTO... YOUR LOVER?
DON'T MISUNDER-STAND! THAT WAS JUST FOR THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL!
OH, YOU WERE LOOKING AT A PHOTO WITH NANASE-SAN...
THANK GOD IT WASN'T A PHOTO OF ME CROSS-DRESSING. PLEASE SPARE ME THE HUMILIATION OF THAT BEING SEEN BY MY RELATIVES...
IT'S HER.
HUH?

SHE'S THE PERSON
I LIKE.


APRIL—

THE START OF A NEW YEAR
DON'T...
CASUALLY TRY TO POCKET MY PHOTOS...
BRINGS WITH IT A PREMO-NITION OF A STORM.